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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Rep. Slaughter Responds to White House Announcement on Delaying Passport Requirement

Washington, DC - Rep. Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY-28), Chairwoman of the House Rules Committee, issued the following statement in response to the recent announcement that the Bush Administration may suspend passport requirements for air travel to and from Canada and Mexico.

"This announcement shows that consistent pressure on the White House and the Department of Homeland Security is working," said Rep. Slaughter. **"The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative is a flawed plan, and today's announcement by the Administration is an admission of that. We were told that air travel would be the easiest mode of travel to apply WHTI requirements to, but it turned out even that prediction was untrue."**

"The fear of WHTI being implemented in its current form has already created problems for many across the country. I will continue leading Congressional opposition to the ill-advised passport requirements contained within WHTI. I am confident that together, we will succeed in forcing DHS and the State Department back to the table so that we can craft a policy that protects our borders without harming both trade and travel."

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